

CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

206 South 17th Avenue, Transportation Board Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

March 20, 2001

MEETING MINUTES

A Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee (CTOC) meeting was held at the Arizona Department of Transportation, Transportation Board Room, 206 South 17th Avenue, Rooms 145-147, Phoenix, Arizona on March 20, 2001 with Chairman William G. Beyer presiding.

Members Present:

William G. Beyer, Chairman
Brian Campbell, Member-At-Large
Scott Newton, Maricopa County District 1
Ron Gawlitta, Maricopa County District 3
Paul Schwartz, Maricopa County District 4

Members Absent:

Jim Lykins, Maricopa County District 2

Others Present:

Jon Greene, Parsons Transportation Group
Edward J. Johnson, Citizen - Youngtown
Gerald Unger, Citizen – Sun City HOA
William “Blue” Crowley, Citizen
Doug Nintzel, ADOT
John Hauskins, ADOT
Kathleen Morley, ADOT
Carolyn Deobler, ADOT

Dan Lance, ADOT
Chuck Eaton, ADOT
Eric Anderson, MAG
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT
Bill Hayden, ADOT
Chris Voigt, MAG
Craig Morley, ADOT
Elizabeth Neville, ADOT

1. Call To Order:

Chairman Beyer called the Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Approval Of The January 16, 2001 CTOC Minutes:

Chairman Beyer called for a motion. Paul Schwartz moved to approve the minutes of the CTOC meeting held on January 16, 2001 as circulated. Ron Gawlitta seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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3. Staff Report:

Chuck Eaton, ADOT, stated that he distributed several handouts that he wanted to comment on to the Committee, they are as follows:

- The Briefing Notes for the Regional Freeway Status.
- Governor's Vision 21 Task Force update, also an agenda for the next Vision 21 meeting Thursday, March 22, 2001, at 1:30 p.m., at the State Capitol. They will be discussing their final draft recommendation that will go out to the public for comment. I have also included three drafts of the committee reports on the table. 1). Alternative Transportation Governance Structures, 2). Definition of Needs, Resources and Revenues Committee and 3). Planning and Programming Committee.
- Legislative Report, two transportation bills that ADOT is particularly concerned with are HB 2507 and SB 1273.
- Twin City Ramp Meter Study Findings.

Chairman Beyer commented that at a future meeting he would like a presentation on the effectiveness of our ramp metering system.

- There is a forum coming up for the MAG Regional Transportation Plan this Friday, March 23, and next Friday, March 30. I encourage the CTOC Members to attend.
- FY 2002-2007 Tentative MAG Life Cycle Program Public Hearing has been held. MAG is now beginning the air quality conformity analysis, pending approval in June or July.
- The 2001 Audit Quarterly Report on the MAG Regional Freeway Program was provided.

Chairman Beyer added that Paul Schwartz will be attending the Vision 21 meeting and will report back to the committee.

4. Region 2040 – What Will We Leave Our Grandchildren:

Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Manager, gave an overhead presentation that looks at the regional growth issues that may impact transportation by 2040. The growth impacts are being considered as part of the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan currently underway. **Copies of this report will be given to the CTOC members.** Copies of the presentation slides are available on request.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation were as follows:

- Paul Schwartz commented that the road systems we have now in Yavapai County is not going to accommodate growth in the future.

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- In regard to Pinal County, John Hauskins reported that he spoke to Sandy Smith, Pinal County Supervisor, and she stated they have 72,000 building permits on the books right now.
- Chairman Beyer questioned what was included under the word "Transit".

Mr. Anderson replied that transit meant local buses, express buses and light rail.

5. HOV / HOT Study Draft Report:

Bill Hayden stated that ADOT, in partnership with MAG, initiated a financial feasibility study for Value Lanes and an update on the 1994 HOV MAG study. Parsons Transportation Group was selected to perform the research study. The final draft is near completion and should be available for distribution in April. Jon Greene from Parsons Transportation Group will now provide an overview of the study.

Jon Greene gave an overhead presentation of the study on High Occupancy Vehicle (HOT) and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. The presentation gave an overview of the study process and draft conclusions and recommendations. The recommendation included a proposed update of the 1994 HOV Plan for the MAG Freeway System and feasible Hot lane options. **Copies of this study will be forwarded to CTOC members.** Copies of the presentation slides are available on request.

Questions and comments regarding the presentation were as follows:

- Chairman Beyer asked if alternatives to HOV Lanes had been researched. He felt multi-purpose lanes would be more feasible.
Mr. Greene commented that the study was to mainly review HOV Lanes. SOV alternatives were not part of the study scope. Chairman Beyer would like to see a better balance. He also questioned having Grand shown as an expressway.
- Paul Schwartz questioned why South Mountain wasn't shown on the map.
Mr. Greene stated South Mountain, Santan, Red Mountain and Agua Fria don't have HOV Lanes.
- Chairman Beyer questioned whether social factors have been considered regarding HOV Lanes. He gave the example of people choosing the freedom of driving alone.
- Ron Gawlitta felt that the study was being done to prove that HOV lanes work. He questioned whether the study addressed the difficulty of crossing the multipurpose lanes to access the HOV lanes? This was not part of the study. He also asked whether aerial transportation had been studied or considered. He commented that nobody was thinking about adding capacity and that we should start transporting people above the congestion. Aerial transportation was not in the scope of this study.
- Dan Lance, ADOT Deputy State Engineer commented that the value of HOV improvements would be better assessed once connectivity is provided.

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- Paul Schwartz questioned the feasibility of HOV Lanes. He stated that he sees one-passenger cars in the HOV Lanes frequently. "If we build HOV lanes they must be enforced."
- Scott Newton commented that he is not a HOV fan, but is very interested in seeing the report. He also mentioned the problems with scofflaws.

Bill Hayden concluded by advising that the Draft Report should be completed late next month and that copies will be provided to the CTOC members.

6. Freeway Maintenance:

Chairman Beyer motioned that the presentation by John Hauskins, ADOT District Engineer, be postponed to another meeting due to the lateness of our meeting. John Hauskins agreed and will return at a later date.

7. Call to the Public:

Gerald Unger, Sun City Homeowners Association. Mr. Unger commented that Sun City has 42,000 residents. We have four major intersections, Grand Avenue, Bell Road, Union Hills and 99th Avenue. We have transportation problems in these areas. Ninety-five percent of the traffic that goes up Grand, Bell, Union Hills and 99th Avenue is through-traffic. Our objective is to get Loop 303 finished on the north. We'd also like to see Olive Avenue made into a larger arterial to carry more traffic south. We also need east/west arterials. There isn't a north/south arterial between 99th Avenue and the Loop 303. We're hoping to get El Mirage Road connected. It would require an overpass over Grand Avenue, an extension north to connect to Loop 303. We hope that the MAG study will result in improvements that will help the situation. We are very interested in future traffic control, bypasses and arterials.

William "Blue" Crowley, Citizen. Mr. Crowley responded to Mr. Unger's remarks. Mr. Crowley stated about three years ago there was a study to connect El Mirage and Loop 303 and El Mirage wasn't interested in the concept.

He also suggested all government employees be required to use public transit to stop traffic congestion. He doesn't feel the future transit will take care of the future population. He commented that in the TIP report, Arizona is spending 1.2 billion on roads opposed to one/thousandth of that on transit, which is part of the problem. Also, the Long Range plan for Park and Ride lots, which are just a hand shake agreements, are not doing the job. In reference to a Mid Phase document, he turned in his input on the bicycle work and found more problems with the Indian School Bridge going over the I-17 regarding bikes and pedestrians. He would like to see a tunnel underneath the Grand Canal and the Grand Avenue. The City's statements, were that it would cost less to build the bridge than the under pass. Then he looked at the TIP report, City of Phoenix, and they are going to build it in 2004, but first there going to do the AC/DC

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under pass that cost 1.6 million at 43rd Avenue and the AC/DC. However, in 2004 its going to cost 3.3 million, so the cost will be more to put it underground. He added that the railroads should be continued through Scottsdale, Fountain Hills and Cave Creek.

8. Next Meeting Date:

Next CTOC Public Meeting
Mustang Library Auditorium
10101 North 90th Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
Thursday, April 26, 2001
6:00 p.m.

Next CTOC Meeting
ADOT Board Room
206 S 17th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Tuesday, May 15, 2001
5:00 p.m.

9. CTOC Member Reports:

At our next regular meeting, Paul Schwartz will report back to us on the Vision 21 Meeting scheduled for March 22, 2001.

10. Recognition and Close:

Chairman Beyer presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Paul Schwartz, District 4, for his term of service from April, 1998, to March, 2001, as a CTOC member. Our appreciation and thanks go to him.

Mr. Beyer called for any further public input, and there was none.

Chairman Beyer asked if anyone had any further questions.

Ron Gawlitta stated he feels CTOC should take more of a lead in aerial transportation.

Chairman Beyer asked Chuck Eaton to meet with Mr. Gawlitta to prepare a report on this subject and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Gawlitta also stated that CTOC needs to get together with the County Board of Supervisors and have a study session regarding various issues. Mr. Gawlitta spoke to Andy Kunasek and he is willing. Chairman Beyer also agreed and asked Mr. Gawlitta to arrange a meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.